DMFIRM #407498185 v1

02.471.7000 FAX 702.471.7070

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(1)	Plaintiff may request that Defendant produce opening statements
related to th	ne Markowitz Attorney Trust Account;

- (2)Plaintiff may request that Defendant produce reports made to the State Bar of Nevada and/or the State Bar of New York related to the Markowitz Attorney Trust Account;
- (3)Plaintiff may request that Defendant produce documents evidencing complaints from any person who deposited funds into the Markowitz Attorney Trust Account;
- (4)Plaintiff may request that Defendant produce its internal policies and procedures in effect in February 2009 (the month the Markowitz Attorney Trust Account was opened) relating to bar verification of attorneys seeking to open an attorney trust account and the handling of attorneys barred outside of the state in which they seek to open an attorney trust account.

Defendant shall conduct a reasonable records search and produce documents responsive to each of the above described categories to the extent that any such documents exist. Defendant shall also reserve the right to make any good faith objections to Plaintiff's requests.

Dated: April , 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

April 25, 2023 DATED:

Submitted by:

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

By: <u>/s/ Madeleine</u> Coles Madeleine Coles, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 16216 Joel E. Tasca, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 14124

1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 900 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Attorneys for Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 900 BALLARD SPAHR LLP

Exhibit 1

Ballard Spahr

One Summerlin 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 900 Las Vegas, NV 89135-2958 TEL 702.471.7000 FAX 702.471.7070 www.ballardspahr.com Joel E. Tasca Madeleine Coles Tel: 702.868.7511 Fax: 702.471.7070 tasca@ballardspahr.com colesm@ballardspahr.com

April 21, 2023

U.S. Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler U.S. District of Nevada 333 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Re: Duffy v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. – 2:22-cv-01988-APG-BNW

Dear Judge Weksler:

Attached for your review please find a proposed order regarding discovery in this matter pursuant to your oral ruling during the hearing on Chase's motion to stay discovery held April 6, 2023. The proposed order was submitted to counsel for Plaintiff James Duffy, and the Parties met and conferred in good faith, but were unable to agree on the substance of the order. At the April 6 hearing, Plaintiff unambiguously agreed to limit all discovery in this case, pending this Court's ruling on Chase's motion to dismiss, to the specific discovery described during the hearing. See Tr. Of Apr. 6, 2023 Hrg. at 14:2-9 (attached as Exhibit 2 hereto). The only discovery discussed during the hearing was (1) the account's opening statements, (2) reporting on the account to the State Bar of New York and the State Bar of Nevada, (3) complaints received by Chase from other persons who had deposited funds into the account, and (4) policies and procedures for determining the bar status of an attorney opening an attorney trust account. Id. at 8:15; 8:17-9:6; 10:5-9; 12:3-17. However, in discussing the terms of a proposed order, Plaintiff demanded broad, vague discovery in excess of what had been agreed to during the hearing. While there is no reason any discovery is needed immediately, Chase attempted to negotiate in good faith with Plaintiffs regarding the scope of discovery, but was unsuccessful. Everything Plaintiff demands can be sought in the unlikely event his complaint survives Chase's motion to dismiss. proposed order accurately reflects the agreement made by Plaintiffs with this Court regarding the discovery that will be sought before any ruling on the motion to dismiss. Therefore, Chase respectfully submits that this Court should enter its proposed order.

Very truly yours,

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

/s/ Joel E. Tasca
Joel E. Tasca
Madeleine Coles

Exhibit 2

1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
2	FOR THE DIS	TRICT OF NEVADA	
3	JAMES DUFFY,) CASE NO. 2:22-cv-01988-APG-BNW	
4	Plaintiff,) Las Vegas, Nevada) Thursday, April 6, 2023	
5	vs.) Courtroom 3B	
6	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,	<pre>) Recording Method: Liberty/CRD) 1:03 p.m 1:25 p.m.</pre>	
7			
8		CERTIFIED COPY	
9			
10			
11	TRANSCRIPT	OF PROCEEDINGS	
12	BEFORE THE HONORABLE BRENDA N. WEKSLER,		
13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE JUDGE		
14			
15	APPEARANCES: (See next page)		
16	Recorded by: Jeff Miller		
17		RISTIAN, RPR, CRR, CCR #955 es District Court	
18		s Boulevard South	
19	Eas Vegas, 1	evada 09101	
20			
21			
22			
23			
24	Proceedings recorded by electro		
25	Transcript produced by mechanical stenography and computer.		

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2
 3
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 4
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           E-mail: jblum@wileypetersenlaw.com
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24
25
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1	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023; 1:03 P.M.
2	000
3	PROCEEDINGS
4	COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR: Your Honor, good afternoon.
5	We are now calling James Duffy vs. JP Morgan Chase Bank, National
6	Association. The case number is 2:22-CV-01988-APG-BNW.
7	Beginning with plaintiff's counsel, will all counsel
8	please state your names for the record.
9	MR. BLUM: Good afternoon, Your Honor. John Blum on
10	behalf of plaintiff.
11	THE COURT: Good afternoon, Mr. Blum.
12	MR. CATANZARITE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ken
13	Catanzarite appearing also for the plaintiff pro hac vice.
14	THE COURT: Good afternoon.
15	MR. TASCA: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Joel Tasca
16	for defendant JP Morgan Chase.
17	THE COURT: Good afternoon, Mr. Tasca.
18	MS. COLES: Good afternoon, Your Honor. This is
19	Madeline Coles also for the defendant, JP Morgan Chase.
20	THE COURT: All right. So we are here on defendant's
21	motion to stay discovery. This is at Document 22. Plaintiff
22	opposed at Document 29. And the defense replied at Document 31.
23	I set this case for argument, so let me go ahead and
24	hear, starting with the defendants.
25	Is it going to be Mr. Tasca or Ms. Coles?

It will be me, Mr. Tasca. 1 MR. TASCA: 2 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Mr. Tasca. 3 Thank you, Your Honor. MR. TASCA: 4 So as cases go, as lawsuits go, our view of this case 5 is that the plaintiff has asserted some claims that really push the balance of plausibility. Basically, what we're trying to do 6 7 is (indiscernible) responsible for fraud committed by others just 8 because those others used an account at the bank to commit that fraud. So there's no allegation that -- that Chase was actively 9 10 involved in any of the alleged fraud that happened to Mr. Duffy. All that Chase did was it held the bank account. And 11 12 I have to give credit to the plaintiff's lawyers. They've come 13 up with a very, sort of, creative way to get this -- that 14 Mr. Duffy believed that Mr. Markowitz, who is the accountholder 15 at the bank, was barred in Nevada, and it's that, that led him 16 astray and made him deposit money. And, you know, it's a 17 creative theory, but it just doesn't withstand the legal 18 scrutiny. 19 And we do have pending motions to dismiss, which Your 20 Honor may or may not have gotten to look at. But there are a 21 number of claims asserted, four claims, in the amended complaint 2.2 (indiscernible) second crack at trying to allege claims because 23 it is the amended complaint. 24 All the claims, in our view, can be dismissed without 25 discovery because we have legal defenses to those claims.

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it's a negligent misrepresentation claim. That's the first one.
1
    That fails as a matter of law because there's no allegation that
 2
 3
    Chase ever made any misrepresentation or -- or even made a
 4
    representation -- forget about misrepresentation -- to Mr. Duffy
 5
    about anything.
                All Chase did was it had an account where the funds
 6
 7
    supposedly were deposited that -- that were allegedly then
8
    dissipated fraudulently. Chase didn't do anything else. No
    direct communication is alleged, and then (indiscernible) second
9
10
    crack at trying to allege this.
11
                So that -- that's the principal reason the negligent
12
   misrepresentation claim fails. There are other reasons.
13
    were in our papers. But I don't want to belabor the discussion.
14
                There was a second claim for fraudulent transfer, and
15
    I understand that that claim has been abandoned by the plaintiffs
16
    in -- in their opposition brief --
17
                THE COURT: So let me -- let me just interrupt you
18
   here a moment.
19
                MR. TASCA:
                            Sure.
                            I think that -- I mean, it seems to me
20
                THE COURT:
21
    that your -- your arguments are catered towards the preliminary
22
   peek test, which are not particularly helpful to the moving
23
   party, just because it requires that I can be convinced that the
24
   motion to dismiss is going to be granted, right?
25
                So it seems to me that you're better off arguing good
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cause as to why this case should be stayed. So I'd rather hear your arguments on that.
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MR. TASCA: Of course, Your Honor. And we did recognize that -- that Your Honor does follow a different standard from the preliminary peek standard. I think, you know, in drafting the papers, a lot of these things sort of merged together. They move around. So I think that, you know, looking at this from the -- from the good cause perspective, I think, you know, our -- our view of this is that the claims are very weak. Again, it kind of merges back as the preliminary peek.

But, you know, if they were to go forward, they are not (indiscernible) complicated claims. There is a claim of negligence against Chase. There's no law that informs the negligence standard because there is no duty here, as we argue in our papers. But even if the Court were to say, Well, but let's see if they can establish a duty in discovery, we're going to need to do expert discovery to explain what the duty is that a bank has in this situation and what would be a breach of that duty. So there's going to be expert discovery necessary.

There is going to be complicated fact discovery.

There is an aiding and abetting breach of fiduciary duty claim that's been asserted against Chase. That claim necessarily requires that the plaintiffs prove that Chase knowingly participated -- or knowingly substantially assisted in the fraud.

And -- and, of course, knowledge is something that rarely can be

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proven with direct evidence. There would need to be indirect
1
 2
    evidence involving discovery of the relationships between Chase
 3
    and the two alleged fraudsters. We already know that there's one
 4
    other incident involving Mr. Duffy and (indiscernible) two
 5
    alleged fraudsters. So there's going to be discovery on those
 6
    things, as well.
 7
                We're also talking about an attorney trust account.
8
   And so, if they're going to get discovery related to the account,
9
    there are going to be what we believe are supporting issues of
10
    attorney-client privilege that we're going to have to waive.
11
                They are seeking -- we know already they are seeking
12
   policy and procedure documents, which Chase are very sensitive
13
    about. So there's going to have to be either compromised or
14
    motion practice on that subject because Chase will seek a
15
   protective order.
16
                So this is just, kind of, a sampling of the
    types -- this is not a car accident. This is a complicated novel
17
18
    creative theory by the plaintiffs, and so, if they were to get
19
    past the motion to dismiss, this case is going to be very
20
    involved. And our position is simply that that discovery should
21
    not start now, and instead, it should await a determination as to
2.2
    whether any of these claims are either plausible, which we
23
    respectfully submit they are not, and this -- this case is either
24
    going to be dismissed or, at a minimum, significantly
25
    (indiscernible).
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8

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Thank you so much.
 1
                THE COURT:
 2
                All right. For the plaintiff, is it going to be
 3
   Mr. Blum or Mr. Cat- -- say that one more time for me.
 4
                MR. CATANZARITE: Catanzarite.
 5
                THE COURT: Catanzarite.
                Is it going to be you, sir?
 6
 7
                MR. CATANZARITE: (Indiscernible).
 8
                THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.
 9
                MR. CATANZARITE: Yeah. (Indiscernible). If you
10
   will.
11
                In focusing on what we've asked for in terms of
12
    discovery, I -- I, frankly, don't agree that it is -- that it
13
    involves all of the, shall we say, argument -- nature of the
14
    argument that my colleague has raised. For example, the account
15
    opening statements would be something that should be freely
16
    available. That -- that's not privileged.
17
                Reports on this account to the State of Nevada, State
18
    Bar of Nevada, Supreme Court with respect to this account being a
19
   Nevada IOLTA account would certainly not be privileged.
20
                One of the arguments advanced in opposition to the
21
   motion to dismiss by my colleagues are that, hey, look, this is
2.2
    equivalent of a New York IOLTA account, which is a significant
23
    argument that they make. And therefore, we've asked, Do you,
24
    Chase, with respect to this account, have any recording with
25
    regard to this account to the State of New York?
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I will tell you that the State of New York indicates
1
 2
    there's none. And that's the reason they've denied any claim by
 3
   Mr. Duffy with respect to the New York clients' security fund
   because there's no trust account properly -- or properly set up
 4
 5
    for this account out of state to New York, which precludes Duffy
    from making his claim.
 6
 7
                So I do -- I do not agree that at least that scope of
8
    discovery would be so difficult to provide. Those are either
    things they did or did not do. I think they may have done
9
10
    something with respect to Nevada, but I don't believe they did
    anything with respect to New York.
11
12
                Moreover, the question of the 14 years of account
13
   history, I'll tell you what our interest is. Our interest is,
14
    did Chase receive other objections by victims with respect to the
15
   processing of that account? In other words, did they receive
16
    warnings? Were they on notice, red flagged, that this
17
    account -- was there someone like Ms. Choy (phonetic) or somebody
18
    else who's reported, Hey, Chase, these guys took my money
19
    improperly. I -- you should not allow this to happen?
20
                That should have caused some red flags to go up in
    Chase's account. So I don't need all of the -- I can -- at this
21
22
    stage, we could agree to limit that aspect to any, shall we say,
23
    other complaints about the management of the account by persons
24
    who deposited money to the account. That would be one way of
25
   narrowing the scope of the discovery.
```

1	With respect to
2	THE COURT: I'm sorry. Your suggestion is to narrow
3	it how, specifically, so that I can go back to the defense and
4	ask them?
5	MR. CATANZARITE: Sure. We would simply ask with
6	respect to the history at this point, were there any other
7	persons who deposited money to that Markowitz account who then
8	complained to Chase about the account? So we would we would
9	agree at this first pass to limit it to that.
10	THE COURT: And this is, what, 14 years?
11	MR. CATANZARITE: 14 years, yes. And we'll see.
12	Maybe there's only two or three, if there's any, that would be
13	significant to us.
14	Next, policies and procedures. I I can appreciate
15	the defense is concerned about policies and procedures. But I
16	question, do the policies and procedures set forth a set of
17	requirements where Chase is supposed to confirm when they're
18	opening a Nevada IOLTA account that the lawyer's licensed in
19	Nevada? If not, what's the next step?
20	Do they have a trigger or, shall we say, a policy and
21	procedure that there could be lawyers from Nevada opening
22	out-of-state trust accounts? If so, were they then obligated
23	under their internal policies and procedures to contact the state
24	to see if an out-of-state account could be maintained?
25	Had they done that here, then Duffy would have a

1	claim against the New York IOLTA fund, but he doesn't because the
2	account wasn't set up that way.
3	Did there did they violate their own internal
4	policies and procedures that would have protected those within a
5	class of persons to whom there could be an anticipated, shall we
6	say, duty or relationship where these where persons were
7	induced to put money into this account and then defrauded again,
8	but the proper New York account was never set up?
9	Those are I think we could limit. I'd be happy to
10	limit this initial wave of discovery.
11	We already have an expert on board on this, and
12	that's been their suggestion of what they'd like to see. I don't
13	think I need to see all the ins and outs of the account. I do
14	agree with Mr. Tasca that our Request No. 2 was brought in that
15	regard. But frankly, we did not anticipate, at the time we wrote
16	the discovery, that there was 14 years of this account
17	relationship.
18	So and we would be interested in that right
19	now
20	THE COURT: So that I'm clear, you're suggesting to
21	narrow the history of the account of 14 years to any individuals
22	who had deposited money and who have subsequently complained,
23	correct?
24	MR. CATANZARITE: Yes.
25	THE COURT: And with regard to the policies and

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procedures, how, specifically, are you willing to narrow this?
1
 2
    Policies and procedures regarding what?
 3
                MR. CATANZARITE: Okay. I'd like to see their
 4
   policies and procedures -- first of all, I'd like to see
 5
    the -- if I can see, the table of contents, because I find in
    litigation that a table of contents may describe something
 6
7
    differently than what I thought it -- how I think it might be
8
    defined.
9
                But what we're looking for is what policies and
10
   procedures are there for determining the -- the attorney opening
11
    the trust account is a Nevada barred attorney, and if not a
12
   Nevada barred attorney presenting in Nevada, what, if they -- do
13
    they then have to inquire where are you barred? And if barred,
14
    then in New York, Chase -- the nature of the bank as broad a bank
15
    as it is, does it have New York-related policies and procedures
16
    that would then have to have been followed to open the New York
17
    compliant trust account?
18
                THE COURT: And with regards to the attorney-client
19
   privilege, you're suggesting that there is no attorney-client
20
   privilege you would be claiming?
21
                MR. CATANZARITE: Well, we have an attorney -- we
22
   have a privilege -- attorney-client privilege that they would be
23
    claiming. I -- I don't see that we need to get into that, unless
24
    the Court views the complaints by the persons who deposited money
25
    into the trust account as being attorney-client privilege, in
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which case, we'd be agreeable that they can redact that at this
1
2
    point. We're simply looking at what notice was given, redact the
 3
    name of the complaining party.
 4
                THE COURT: All right. Mr. Tasca.
 5
                MR. TASCA:
                            Thank you, Your Honor.
                So, you know, what I heard being articulated is -- is
 6
7
    really only going to be a first step, I'm sure. I'm sure they're
8
    going to ask for what -- what they just said, and then they're
9
    going to want to go deeper. And then they're going to want to
10
    take depositions. We're going to need a protective order --
11
                THE COURT: Well, I guess, my question is this: I
12
   mean, what if I were to enter an order where I only allow the
13
   plaintiffs to go after this discovery that's been described
14
    today? How would you feel about that?
15
                MR. TASCA: Well, Your Honor, we'd obviously prefer
16
    you grant our motion in its entirety. (Indiscernible). I mean,
17
    that would be better than -- better than nothing.
18
                We would ask that, you know, if we have to provide
19
    that, that maybe at this point, there be no depositions, at
20
    least, taken or -- or further discovery requests, at least until
21
    the motion to dismiss is decided. But this would give the
2.2
   plaintiffs (indiscernible) something they can sink their teeth
23
    into and keep going on it. I -- yeah. I mean, that -- that is
24
    not an unreasonable compromise.
25
                THE COURT: All right. So, I mean, I would be
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willing to, sort of, split the baby here. I mean, so long as the
1
2
    plaintiffs would be in agreement not to go after any other
 3
    discovery, other than what we've described here today, so there
 4
    will be no deposition at this stage of the game or any other
 5
    discovery other than what's been discussed until the motion to
 6
    dismiss has been decided.
 7
                So I'll hear from you, sir.
8
                MR. CATANZARITE: We'd agree to that, Your Honor.
    I -- I think that's a reasonable compromise at this stage.
9
10
                THE COURT: All right. So, I guess, then, I mean,
    the posture of this motion is as a motion to stay discovery. So
11
12
    I suppose I'll go ahead and give you my order denying the motion
13
    to stay discovery, but I will go ahead and enter a protective
14
    order allowing the parties only to enter into the specific
15
    discovery that we went ahead and talked about today.
16
                So would it make more sense for the parties to go
17
    ahead and draft something for my approval jointly?
18
                MR. TASCA: I was going to suggest that, Your Honor,
19
    just so we're, you know, all on the same page as to what,
20
    exactly, they want and what we're (indiscernible). And so, I
21
    think we can work with plaintiff's counsel or agreeable to do
22
    that (indiscernible).
23
                THE COURT: All right. So let me go ahead and read
24
    you my order, then.
25
                I'll deny the motion to stay discovery, but again,
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the reason why I'm denying the motion to stay discovery is
1
2
    because of this agreement that the parties have reached in court
 3
    today to limit the discovery in the ways that were discussed in
 4
    court today.
 5
                All right. So the parties are familiar with the
 6
    facts of this case and the related arbitration. Accordingly, the
7
    Court will only repeat them here as necessary.
8
                Defendants move to stay discovery as it recently
9
    filed a motion to dismiss plaintiff's amended complaint.
10
    Defendant's motion to dismiss seeks to dismiss all of plaintiff's
11
    claims under Rule 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim.
12
                Defendant argues that discovery should be stayed and
13
    under the preliminary peek test because -- because its motion to
14
    dismiss will be dispositive and no additional discovery is needed
15
    to decide it.
16
                Defendant also argues that discovery should be stayed
17
    under the good cause test as discovery is already proving to be
18
    unduly burdensome and will likely continue in this matter.
19
                Plaintiff disagrees, arguing that discovery should
20
    not be stayed. Plaintiff argues that defendant has not met its
21
   heavy burden under the preliminary peek test to convince this
22
    Court that plaintiff will be unable to proceed on any claim.
23
                Plaintiff also argues that good cause does not exist
24
    to stay discovery as the case is not complex and discovery will
   not be overly burdensome.
25
```

Finally, plaintiff argues that he will be prejudiced 1 2 if discovery is stayed because he is over 80 years old. 3 The federal rules do not provide for an automatic 4 stay or blanket stays of discovery because of potentially 5 dispositive motions. However, courts may stay discovery in certain circumstances. 6 7 As mentioned before, there are two main tasks. 8 is the preliminary peek test under Kor Media. The other one is 9 the good cause test as explained in Schrader v. Wynn. 10 Here, defendant argues that discovery should be stayed under both tests and plaintiff disagrees. The Court here 11 12 agrees with plaintiff that a discovery stay is not appropriate in 13 this case under either test given what we discussed here today. 14 Under the preliminary peek test, a discovery stay is 15 not appropriate. The Court is not convinced that defendant will succeed on its motion to dismiss on all claims. That does not 16 17 mean that you won't succeed. I'm just not convinced at this 18 stage. I have written at length about how difficult it is for a 19 court in my situation to be able to be convinced of anything 20 based on a preliminary peek. 21 However, I will not go in any depth regarding the 22 motion to dismiss as it's the court's -- the district court's 23 rule to evaluate the propriety of the motion to dismiss. 24 Accordingly, the Court will not stay discovery under 25 the preliminary peek test, and under the good cause test, I find

1	that even though defendant argues that discovery is proving to be
2	unduly, unduly burdensome, based on the broad discovery requests
3	and it could potentially complicate facts and expert
4	required discovery, I find that the middle ground that we were
5	able to strike today takes care of the concerns that the defense
6	may have, and the defense seems to also agree that that is a good
7	compromise.
8	The Court is unpersuaded by the arguments made in the
9	defense by the defense and, as a result, finds that no good
10	cause has been shown.
11	So I will go ahead and allow you to prepare a joint
12	protective order that delineates in detail the discovery that we
13	discussed in court today. And I'm going to ask you to make sure
14	that we get that no later than next Friday.
15	So what is today? Is today the 7th?
16	COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR: Today's the 6th, Your
17	Honor, and the date for next Friday, Your Honor, would be April
18	the 14th.
19	THE COURT: All right. Does that work for
20	plaintiffs?
21	MR. CATANZARITE: It does, Your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Defense.
23	MR. TASCA: It works for us, as well, Your Honor. I
24	guess I would just ask while we're all here, if plaintiff's
25	counsel could send us, sort of, you know, a list of what they

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described today, and we could take a look at it. That could be a
 1
 2
    good way to start.
 3
                THE COURT: All right. Sounds wonderful. So I'll be
 4
    looking for the joint protective order by Friday, the 14th. If
 5
    you need additional time to put that together, just let me know,
    and I'm happy to grant additional time. Okay?
 6
 7
                MR. CATANZARITE: Thank you, Your Honor.
 8
                THE COURT: All right --
 9
                             Thank you, Your Honor.
                MR. TASCA:
10
                THE COURT:
                             -- wonderful. Have a good weekend,
11
    everyone.
                MR. TASCA: You, too.
12
13
                             Thank you, Your Honor.
                MS. COLES:
14
                   (Proceedings adjourned at 1:45 p.m.)
15
                                  --000--
16
           I, Paige M. Christian, a court-appointed transcriber,
17
    certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript transcribed
18
    from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings
19
    in the above-entitled matter.
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21
    Date: April 13, 2023
2.2
                           /s/ Paige M. Christian_
23
                           Paige M. Christian, RPR, CRR, CCR #955
                           Official Court Reporter
24
                           United States District Court
                           District of Nevada
25
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